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METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PRODUCT REGIONALIZATION

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CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a continuation-in-part of United States Patent
Application serial number 09/295,080 filed April 20, 1999, entitled "Method And
Apparatus For Transferring Information Between A Replaceable Consumable And A
Printing Device," assigned to the assignee of the present invention.

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TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

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The present invention relates to methods of regionalizing a product for specific markets for the purposes of language localization, insuring compliance with local laws and standards, or theft prevention, and apparatus for accomplishing the methods.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A variety of situations exist in which it is desirable to "regionalize" a product, distinguishing that product from otherwise identical products elsewhere.

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Regionalization can allow a product to automatically configure related software, such as drivers and user manuals, to be displayed in a local language. Regionalization can help discourage the use of consumable items related to the product that are not intended for use in that region (due to non-compliance with local standards, or local intellectual property rights issues). "Regionalization" may also be used on a local